

Dear Clients and Friends,

The other day I came across an article from the Consulting Engineers Council of Pennsylvania. The following paragraphs were particularly thought provoking.

“The most important ingredient in any construction project is its design. The quality of design from concept through completion is the single most important factor in determining a project’s “life cycle” cost - the cost of design, construction, and the ongoing costs for operation and maintenance.

While design is the first step in the construction process, it dictates everything that follows; the size and layout of the facility, type of construction materials, capacity of mechanical and electrical systems, energy efficiency, and other factors. It’s unfortunate, but true, that not even the best contractor using the finest construction materials can overcome the effects of poor design.

A sound engineering solution is particularly the most important ingredient in projects that do not directly involve construction. Management systems, maintenance programs, computer systems, studies and reports require the application of services provided by a qualified consulting engineer to protect the interest of the owner.”

I think this really explains the importance of quality engineering. An engineer’s design has a profound effect before, during and long after a project is constructed, both with respect to the overall cost of the project and its functionality.

To those of us who provide engineering services this is both a privilege and a challenge. To those of us who use engineering services, we must be mindful that the cost of engineering services are small when compared to the total life cycle costs. Therefore, quality engineering, even if slightly more expensive than the “low bid”, usually pays dividends over the long term.

Until next time,



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